

LSC, NLADA and Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG) are proud to be co-sponsors, and we urge directors and advocates to attend:

The National Rural Legal Services Conference

Wednesday November 12, 2003

Westin Hotel, Seattle Washington

Why should someone from your program attend? In virtually every state justice community, rural delivery is everyone's job! According to the Office of Management and Budget only New Jersey and Washington DC have NO non-metro counties.¹

" 244 of our nation's poorest counties are rural*

** 95% of our nation's persistently poor counties are rural*

** 40% of the rural population has no public transportation access and half the rural poor do not own an automobile*

** Over half of rural children in female-headed households live in poverty"*

Chuck Fluharty, Director

Rural Policy Research Institute

"Americans tend to picture poor children living in big cities. But there are 38 counties with child poverty rates higher than in the poorest big cities, virtually all of them rural counties."

Marion Wright Edelman, Founder,

Children's Defense Fund, June 4, 2002

The Rural Legal Services conference will build on the LSC-sponsored Rural Issues and Delivery Symposium held in Nebraska City last fall, where thirty-three advocates gathered to share ideas and develop strategies designed to improve the delivery of legal services to rural communities across the United States.

The agenda for the November 12 conference will include:

- An overview of last fall's rural symposium and LSC's rural report, the recently released ABA rural pro bono guide, national multi-sector rural leadership initiatives, rural sessions at last spring's Equal Justice Conference and rural perspectives from the recent National Fundraising Conference
- An opportunity to build support for a national rural justice center and a national rural advocacy network
- demonstration of a new national rural legal services resource website
- A Rural Funders' Panel (explaining what rural funders look for; emerging trends and needs in rural communities)
- Substantive discussions on five key issues in the rural legal services community:
 - recruitment and retention
 - resource allocation and development

¹ www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/RuralUrbCon/.

- capacity building
- community lawyering and community partnerships
- innovative outreach

The opening keynote speaker will be Charles W. Fluharty, Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI); an international, interdisciplinary policy research consortium, designed to assist policymakers in understanding the rural impacts of public policies. Fluharty, a graduate of Yale Divinity School, was born and raised on a fifth generation family farm in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Ohio. He has received recognition from the National Association of Counties Rural Action Caucus, the 1999 National Rural Development Partnership Recognition Award and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE RURAL CONFERENCE IS FREE
with registration for the NLADA annual conference**

To register for the Rural Conference, See NLADA conference information at www.nlada.org.

For more information about the Rural Conference, contact Melissa Pershing, pershingm@lsc.gov

We look forward to seeing you there!